

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

State/Territory: North Dakota

ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Programs to Measure and Reduce Inconsistency

The State has in effect the following programs to measure and reduce inconsistency in the application of survey results among surveyors.

The state survey agency monitors the survey process for inconsistency in applying federal regulations in a number of ways. These include the following:

- All survey packets are reviewed by the team leader as part of the preparation of the HCFA 2567 statement of deficiencies and plan of correction. In addition, a manager for the licensure and certification program reviews each deficiency list as part of the certification of the facility.
- The survey agency analyzes the results of the survey program by utilizing reports generated through the On-line Survey and Certification Reporting System (OSCAR) utilizing data that is contained in the Medicare/Medicaid Automated Computer System.
- Managers for licensure and certification conduct random on-site evaluations of surveyors to determine their competency in following the certification protocols and evaluating for compliance with federal regulations. The process that is used is similar to the federal (OSPATS) monitoring program conducted by the HCFA Regional Office.
- The survey agency conducts staff training sessions to review and discuss the regulations and address any questions or concerns regarding consistency and interpretation.
- The Regional Office has conducted training for all survey staff on the federal principles of documentation. The purpose of the training was to establish a more uniform and consistent approach in documenting deficiencies. This training has been videotaped and is included as part of new surveyor orientation.

TN No. 92-011
Supersedes
TN No. NEW

Approval Date 9/1/92

Effective Date 4/1/92

HCFA ID: _____

State: North Dakota

- The survey agency has developed a scope and intensity index that is used to assist surveyors in decision making regarding whether a problem will be cited as a deficiency. This decision making tool does provide direction and some greater specificity to aid the surveyor in arriving at a decision whether findings should be cited as a deficiency.
- The federal Regional Office conducts random on-site surveyor performance and training surveys (OSPATS) to monitor state surveyor effectiveness and competency. The federal OSPATS process includes a formal debriefing and written report. This information is used to evaluate the survey agency's effectiveness and identify training needs.

92-011
9/1/92
Effective Date 4/1/92
Supersedes Transmittal New